and which the British Colony has only during the last few years invaded with acts of jurisdiction, which have called forth repeated energetic protests from the Government of the Republic.

It is in vain that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty consider the territory in question to be undoubtedly a part of the Colony of British Guiana, when the history of this boundary question for the last fifty years rises up against such a claim as an irrefutable proof of which the whole world has full knowledge. That history fully proves the doubtfulness of the rights claimed by the Colony of British Guiana, and before the supreme tribunal of public opinion Her Majesty's Government will not be able by a stroke of the pen to cancel the verdict condemning acts of force as wrong, and as being no proof of the existence of right.

I am only doing my duty in again protesting most solemnly, in the name of the Government of Venezuela, against the proceedings of the Colony of British Guiana, which constitute an invasion of the territory of the Republic, and against the statement made in your Excellency's note, that Her Majesty's Government consider that part of the territory as a portion of British Guiana, and do not admit any claim to it on the part of Venezuela. In support of this protest, I repeat all the arguments contained in my note to your Excellency of the 29th September last, and all those put forward by the Venezuelan Government on the various occasions on which they have made the same protest.

In conclusion, I cast upon Her Majesty's Government the entire responsibility for any events which may occur in future as a result of Venezuela being forced to resist, by all the means in her power, the seizure of a portion of her territory, seeing that her legitimate wish to see this strained situation put an end to by arbitration is rendered nugatory, and that the painful duty of providing for her legitimate defence is forced upon her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOMÁS MICHELENA.

No. 235.

The Earl of Rosebery to Señor Michelena.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 6th instant, referring to the complaint which the Venezuelan Government have brought against the authorities of British Guiana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

Digitized with financial assistance from
Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj
on 31 October, 2019

VENEZUELA. No. 1 (1902).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

AFFAIRS OF VENEZUELA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December 1902.

Bx 21.33

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.,
AND 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
OR OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
OR E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

[Cd. 1372.] *Price* 2½*d.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.		Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Memorandum ..	..	July 20, 1902	Memorandum on existing causes of complaint against Venezuela	1
2	To Mr. Buchanan ..	..	23,	German Ambassador has been told that His Majesty's Government are quite ready to confer with German Government as to taking joint action	4
3	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	29,	Instruction to address a formal protest to Venezuelan Government, and to intimate that unless a satisfactory reply is forthcoming His Majesty's Government will take steps necessary to obtain reparation in cases where it is due	4
4	Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	Aug. 5,	Summary of reply from Venezuelan Government	5
5	To Admiralty ..	..	8,	Informs of causes of complaint against Venezuela, and of Nos. 3 and 4. Asks for views as to best manner of putting pressure on Venezuelan Government	5
6	Admiralty	..	14,	Reply to No. 5. Consider a blockade would be the best course to adopt	6
7	Mr. Haggard ..	Extract	1,	Transmits copy of note addressed to Venezuelan Government in accordance with No. 3	6
8	„ „ ..	Extract	4,	Transmits reply from Venezuelan Government to note inclosed in No. 7	7
9	Admiralty	..	Oct. 10,	Transmits letter from Commander-in-chief on North American and West Indies Station respecting measures for carrying out proposed operations	9
10	To Admiralty ..	Extract	22,	Acknowledges No. 9. Seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats would be the most convenient course	10
11	Admiralty	Extract	28,	No serious difficulty anticipated in carrying out seizure of gun-boats referred to in No. 10	10
12	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	Nov. 11,	Instruction to address a note to Venezuelan Government respecting unsatisfactory nature of their reply (see No. 8). His Majesty's Government are ready to consider any further communication	10
13	To Mr. Buchanan ..	Extract	11,	German Ambassador informed of No. 12. Reports conversation respecting joint execution of measures of coercion	10
14	„ „ ..	Extract	17,	Conversation with Count Bernstorff respecting British and German claims, and manner in which they should be enforced	11
15	Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	17,	Summary of reply of Venezuelan Government to note addressed to them in accordance with No. 12	12
16	„ „ ..	..	Oct. 29,	Transmits note addressed to Venezuelan Government respecting treatment of British sloop "Racer"	12
17	Memorandum communicated to Count Metternich	..	Nov. 26,	Measures to be adopted respecting presentation of ultimatum	13

No.	Name.		Date.	Subject.	Page
18	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	Nov. 27, 1902	Measures to be adopted in conjunction with German Government	14
19	Admiralty	..	27,	Transmits telegram from Commander-in-chief on North American Station, with Admiralty reply, relative to movements of His Majesty's ships	14
20	To Admiralty ..	..	28,	Acknowledges No. 19. Arrangements respecting presentation of ultimatum	15
21	To Mr. Buchanan ..	Extract	Dec. 1,	German Ambassador informed of telegram to be sent to Mr. Haggard (see No. 22) and of arrangements made by Admiralty ..	15
22	To Mr. Haggard ..	Telegraphic	2,	Ultimatum to be addressed to Venezuelan Government	16

APPENDIX.

1	Mr. Haggard to General Pachano	..	Jan. 24, 1902	"Ban Righ." Explains circumstances in which vessel left British port	17
2	„ „ ..	..	Mar. 27,	"Ban Righ." Views of His Majesty's Government on the question of liability	17

Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Venezuela.

No. 1.

Memorandum on existing Causes of Complaint against Venezuela.

Case of the Seizures by the Venezuelan Gun-boat "Augusto."

IT appears from the sworn evidence of ten witnesses examined before the Attorney-General of Trinidad that on the 21st January, 1901, four boats—three Venezuelan and one belonging to a British subject—were at Patos Island waiting for the tide on their way to Port of Spain, laden with cocoa. The boats were of the usual class which trade between Port of Spain and the neighbouring ports of Venezuela, and appear on this occasion to have been simply carrying cargo and passengers in the ordinary way to Port of Spain.

There were some twenty-five persons altogether in the boats, sailors and passengers, including several British subjects.

On the morning of the 22nd the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" appeared off the island, and, after remaining close in shore for some hours, summoned the people who had landed from the vessels above referred to to come on board the "Augusto." This demand not being complied with, a force of some twenty armed Venezuelans under Colonel Torres was landed on Patos, and proceeded to remove the boats and collect their cargoes. About half the passengers and crew of the trading-boats were removed on board the "Augusto," the remainder taking refuge in the woods, where they were left without food, water, or means of leaving the island.

Representations were at once made by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Carácas with reference to this reported seizure and deportation of British subjects. A stringent inquiry was demanded, but so far as His Majesty's Government are aware no attention was paid to this demand.

Case of the "Sea Horse."

On the 26th February, 1901, John Craig, a fisherman of Trinidad, a British subject proceeded to Patos in pursuance of his calling in his boat, the "Sea Horse." Having beached his boat and landed with his boat's crew on the island, he was followed by the crew of a Venezuelan Guarda Costa, armed with cutlasses and rifles, who beat one of his companions, fired at another, who, however, escaped unhurt, and finally seized the boat and its contents, leaving the men on the island without food or water. They were fortunately relieved by a passing boat two days later and taken back to Port of Spain.

In this case, a strong remonstrance was addressed to the Venezuelan Government in respect of the landing of an armed force on British territory, and the assault on the persons and seizure of the property of British subjects.

On the same occasion the "Buena Fé," a boat belonging to a Venezuelan citizen, resident in Trinidad, was seized under similar circumstances, and although the owner's nationality precluded support of any claim on his part, the interference with the boatmen and the seizure of the property on Patos Island constituted a grave violation of British territory.

The statements of fact were in each case supported by sworn declarations. The Venezuelan Government justified the action of their Guarda Costa by declaring that they considered Patos as belonging to Venezuela, and by stating that the "Sea Horse" was thought to be engaged in smuggling. No proof of this was, however, adduced, nor did there appear to be any reasonable ground for the assumption. This plea was subsequently amended by the further statement that the "Sea Horse" was suspected of landing arms, but the Venezuelan version of the fact proves that she never touched the coast and could not therefore have landed arms, while it was not even alleged that, after being chased to Patos where she was seized, she had any arms on board.

The explanations offered after six months' correspondence were wholly unsatisfactory, and, as His Majesty's Minister states in the last despatch received on this subject, "no redress has been offered for an act which, even according to their own account (*i.e.*, that of the Venezuelan Government), and if their assumed possession of the island be allowed, was one of unjustifiable violence."

Case of the "Maria Theresa."

In January 1901 the sloop "Maria Theresa," the property of a British subject, but flying the Venezuelan flag, was, when about to leave the Venezuelan port of Guiria, compelled to heave-to, and ordered to proceed to Trinidad, instead of to her destination at Yrapa on the mainland. On the "Maria Theresa" proceeding to follow these instructions she was boarded by a boat from the "Miranda," which took off the master and two sailors, and after seizing the property on board the "Maria Theresa" set on fire and completely destroyed her.

The Venezuelan Government, in justification of the "Miranda's" action, contended that the owner and master of the sloop had been actively engaged in assisting the revolutionists. Although the treatment of the British subjects on board the sloop afforded ground for remonstrance, His Majesty's Government, in view of these statements, which were not, however, supported by proof, forebore to press the matter strongly, as there was some evidence that the vessel had been in communication with, if not in the employ of, the revolutionary party. Further inquiry and explanations were promised.

Case of the "Pastor."

The case of the "Pastor" afforded still stronger ground for protest. On the 30th August last year the Venezuelan-owned sloop "Pastor" left Port of Spain with a cargo of goods and with three passengers, one of whom at least was a British subject.

There is some evidence to show that the "Pastor," in conjunction with three other boats of Venezuelan nationality, was engaged on a smuggling venture. On her arrival at Patos Bay, the Venezuelan revenue-boat "Totumo" appeared on the scene, and after examining the papers and cargo of the "Pastor" landed some of her crew on the island, seized and carried on board goods which had been there deposited by the "Pastor," and took the men engaged in the expedition as prisoners. She subsequently fired on the "Pastor," when that vessel was still in British waters.

The correspondence exchanged with the Venezuelan Government with reference to this incident made it clear that they were determined to consider and to treat Patos as belonging to the Republic. In these circumstances, it was thought expedient to record a formal protest against this renewed and gross violation of British territorial waters by a Venezuelan gun-boat—which the facts that the "Pastor" was a Venezuelan vessel, and had infringed the Customs Regulations of Trinidad, were not held in any way to justify.

His Majesty's Minister accordingly made a strong remonstrance with reference to this incident, but the Venezuelan Government stated that they could not make any investigation with regard to the violation of British territory, as they considered Patos Island, on which the violation of territory occurred, as their own legitimate possession.

Case of the "Indiana."

A further case of the violation of British rights occurred in January last in the seizure and detention of the British-owned and registered sloop "Indiana" in the

River Barima, within Venezuelan territory, the waters of which are by the terms of the Anglo-Venezuelan Boundary Award open to the navigation of all nations in time of peace.

In this instance the vessel, which carried only a cargo of empty barrels used for the conveyence of corn to the market of Georgetown, was suspected of smuggling, seized and carried into the Venezuelan port of Amakuru, the captain escaping in a native canoe.

There was no evidence to support this charge of smuggling, and the Colonial authorities, to whom the case was reported, point out that the confiscation of the vessel was an excessively severe penalty for any infraction of the Customs laws, if such were deemed to have occurred.

The representations made to the Venezuelan Government have hitherto failed to elicit any explanation.

Case of the "In Time."

A more recent instance of a similar character is the destruction of the British vessel "In Time" by the Venezuelan gun-boat "General Crespo," in the Venezuelan harbour of Pedernales on or about the 1st May last.

It appears that on the arrival of the gun-boat "General Crespo" in Pedernales orders were given to seize all craft in port, and this was done. No provocation or justification of this order has been assigned. The "In Time" was then fired on by the gun-boat, and an armed party from the "Crespo" boarded her and broke her up. She subsequently drifted down the river and sank.

In connection with this case, His Majesty's Minister was instructed to inform the Venezuelan Government that unless they could disprove the reports received as to the destruction of this vessel, His Majesty's Government might be obliged to cease extending the hospitality of British ports to Venezuelan cruizers.

The Venezuelan Government have protested against the "menacing tone" of this communication, which they consider "inadmissible," even as a simple notification.

Case of the "Queen."

The seizure on the high seas of the British ship "Queen," of Grenada, reported by His Majesty's Minister in June, is the latest instance of such unwarrantable interference.

In this case it appears, from sworn evidence, that the vessel, while on her voyage from Grenada to Trinidad in ballast, was overhauled by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Restaurador" some 20 miles off Carupano; that after the seizure the "Queen" was towed into the Venezuelan port of Porlamar, there stripped of her sails and papers and finally confiscated, on a mere suspicion of having carried a cargo of arms to Venezuela, the crew being put on shore and left destitute.

The master and one of the crew, after remaining there twenty-seven days, obtained a passage on a Venezuelan sloop, and found their way to La Guayra, where they reported themselves to the British Vice-Consul.

The facts having been brought to the knowledge of His Majesty's Minister, he at once addressed a representation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and requested "to be informed what steps the Venezuelan Government intended to take with reference to this charge, in which more than one important question was involved."

The action of the Acting Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad, Señor Figueredo, has also given rise to grave complaints with reference to his issuing irregular clearances, exaction of improper fees and charges, and assumption of unwarranted authority by the collection of customs dues for Venezuela in Trinidad.

He has, further, in some cases, refused to accept dispatch of vessels for Venezuela, on the ground that they belonged to persons who were not acceptable to the Venezuelan Government, and in others is stated to have placed every sort of hindrance to the dispatch of vessels, thus seriously prejudicing the trade of British subjects at Trinidad.

M. Figueredo's conduct was brought to notice especially in connection with his refusal to dispatch the British registered lighter "Euterpe," belonging to the "Compagnie Générale des Asphaltes de France," when he informed the Company that if the vessel was otherwise dispatched she would be seized or sunk as soon as she was outside British waters.

His Majesty's Minister has been instructed to protest against M. Figueredo's action,

and to inform the Venezuelan Government that unless satisfactory assurances were forthcoming, no exequatur would be issued to their Consul. Of this communication no notice has been taken.

Besides these specific outrages and grounds of complaint, there are cases in which British subjects and Companies have large claims against the Venezuelan Government.

The Venezuelan Government decline to accept the explanations and assurances of His Majesty's Government with regard to the "Ban Righ" as in any way modifying the situation.* As a result, the position of His Majesty's Legation at Carácas has been rendered for diplomatic purposes quite impracticable, as all representations, protests, and remonstrances now remain disregarded and unacknowledged.

Foreign Office, July 20, 1902.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 23, 1902.

THE German Ambassador spoke to me to-day about the state of affairs in Venezuela. I told his Excellency that we had various causes of complaint against the Venezuelan Government, and that we intended to obtain satisfaction for the claims of British subjects. We should be quite ready to confer with the German Government with a view to joint action.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 29, 1902.

THE liberty and property of British subjects have in a succession of cases been interfered with in a wholly unwarrantable manner by the Venezuelan Government. The following incidents have been the subject of serious consideration by His Majesty's Government:

The action of the gun-boat "Augusto" in seizing and deporting certain British subjects in January 1901; the seizure of John Craig's boat and property on Patos Island in the February following; the similar interference on the same occasion in the case of the "Buena Fé," which was accompanied by violation of territory; and the cases of the vessels "Maria Theresa," "Pastor," "Indiana," and "In Time."

No satisfactory explanations have been received from the Venezuelan Government in any of these cases. The destruction of the British ship "Queen" is a stil more flagrant instance of such interference.

His Majesty's Government cannot tolerate a continuance of the conduct which culminated in the last-mentioned incident, and you should address a formal protest respecting it to the Venezuelan Government. You should intimate to the President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in unmistakable terms, that unless His Majesty's Government receive explicit assurances that incidents of this nature shall not recur, and unless the Venezuelan Government promptly pay to the injured parties full compensation wherever satisfactory evidence has been furnished to His Majesty's Government that such is justly due, His Majesty's Government will take such steps as may be necessary to obtain the reparation which they are entitled to demand from the Venezuelan Government in these cases, as well as for any loss to British subjects caused by the unjustifiable conduct of the Acting Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad, and on account of the Railway claims.

---

* See Appendix.

No. 4.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Carácas, August* 5, 1902.

IN reply to the representations made in accordance with your telegram of the 29th July, the Venezuelan Government state that, in their opinion, some of the cases mentioned have been already concluded, and that, in consequence of the partiality towards the revolutionaries displayed by the Government of Trinidad, and pending a settlement of the complaints relative to the "Ban Righ," they have determined to postpone the others.

They reiterate that they cannot entertain other cases unconnected with the "Ban Righ" until that case is satisfactorily settled; with regard to it they refer to their previous decisions. They further state that the conduct of the Acting Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad must necessarily be taken into consideration in relation to the friendly attitude of the Colonial authorities towards the revolutionaries.

The alternative given by His Majesty's Government is ignored.

No. 5.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to request you to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that for the past two years His Majesty's Government have had grave cause to complain on various occasions of unjustifiable interference on the part of the Venezuelan Government with the liberty and property of British subjects.

The successive instances which have occurred since the beginning of last year are set forth in the accompanying Memorandum.* No efforts have been spared by Mr. Haggard, His Majesty's Minister at Carácas, in his endeavours to obtain an amicable settlement of these cases. In none of them have satisfactory explanations been forthcoming, and latterly the representations of His Majesty's Minister not only received no attention, but remained unnoticed.

The destruction of the British ship "Queen," reference to which will be found in the Memorandum, was considered so flagrant a case that it was felt that a continuance of such conduct could no longer be tolerated.

A telegram, copy of which is inclosed,† was accordingly sent to Mr. Haggard, instructing him to record a formal protest against the conduct of the Venezuelan Government, and to intimate in unmistakable terms to the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs that unless explicit assurances were received that such incidents should not recur, and unless full compensation were promptly paid to the injured parties wherever shown to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government to be justly due, they would take such steps as might be necessary to exact the reparation to which they were entitled.

A telegram, copy of which is also inclosed,‡ has been received from Mr. Haggard, conveying the reply of the Venezuelan Government to this protest. It will be seen that no practical attention has been paid to the remonstrance of His Majesty's Government, and that the threat to take such steps as may be necessary to exact reparation has been ignored.

Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that the time has arrived when stronger measures must be resorted to for the purpose of bringing the Venezuelan Government to a sense of their international obligations. His Lordship would, therefore, be glad to be favoured with the views of the Lords Commissioners as to the most effectual and convenient manner of putting pressure on the Venezuelan Government.

I am to add that, in conversation with Lord Lansdowne, Count Metternich, the German Ambassador, has suggested that the two Powers concerned should take part in a joint naval demonstration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---

* No. 1. † No. 3. ‡ No. 4.

No. 6.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 15.)

(Extract.) *Admiralty, August* 14, 1902.

I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 8th instant, in which you refer to the numerous instances of unjustifiable interference on the part of the Venezuelan Government with the liberty and property of British subjects, and state that, in the opinion of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the time has now arrived when stronger measures than those heretofore adopted must be resorted to, for the purpose of bringing that Government to a sense of its international obligations.

If it should be decided by His Majesty's Government to put pressure on Venezuela in order to obtain satisfaction for the acts of aggression committed by that country on British shipping or against British interests, my Lords would be prepared to direct the Commander-in-chief on the North America and West Indies Station to establish a blockade of such ports on the Venezuelan coast as may be selected for this purpose, on the understanding that the blockade should be deferred until November, when the unhealthy season is over.

The places selected for blockade would be La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, and possibly three other ports where railways terminate, and also the Port of Maracaibo, which is visited by a larger number of vessels than any other port on the Venezuelan coast. Some, if not all, of these ports could be effectively blockaded by the present squadron on the Station.

Should His Majesty's Government as a matter of policy consider it desirable to adopt the suggestion of the German Ambassador, that "the two Powers concerned should take part in a joint naval demonstration," their Lordships consider that a blockade in Venezuelan waters would be the best method of giving effect to it.

No. 7.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 28.)

(Extract.) *Carácas, August* 1, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the note which I addressed to the Venezuelan Government embodying the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship in your telegram of the 29th ultimo, to record a formal protest with regard to the past intolerable conduct of the Venezuelan Government in interfering with the liberty and property of British subjects, and to intimate in unmistakable terms that, unless explicit assurances were received that such incidents should not recur, and unless full compensation were paid promptly to the injured parties wherever it was shown, to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government, that such compensation was justly due, they would take such steps as might be necessary to exact the reparation which they have the right to demand in these cases, as well as on account of the claims against the Venezuelan Government of the British Railway Companies, as also for any loss caused by the unjustifiable conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad.

I took this note in person to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and carefully translated it to him word for word, at the same time explaining and enlarging on it in terms about which there could certainly not be any possible mistake. At the close of each sentence I asked his Excellency if he thoroughly understood it, and satisfied myself that he did so. I pointed out to him the extreme gravity of the communication, and said that he would thoroughly understand that it could only have been made after full and serious consideration, not only as to the communication itself but as to the consequences which it involved; that, in fact, His Majesty's Government meant what they said, and that they did not use such words without fully intending to act up to them in case of need.

I therefore begged him to consider, and specially to induce the President to consider the note very earnestly in view particularly of the serious consequences which might be expected to follow the refusal of the Venezuelan Government to comply with the just demands of His Majesty's Government.

His Excellency accepted the note quietly: his final remark was that they were used

to these communications. I said that that might be the case, but not from England; that his Excellency must bear in mind that we had been extraordinarily patient, that His Majesty's Government were slow in taking such a weighty decision, but that they had the power to execute it when once taken.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre, *Carácas, July* 30, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that I have been informed by His Majesty's Government that they have had under their serious consideration a succession of cases in which the Venezuelan Government have interfered with the property and liberty of British subjects in a wholly unwarrantable manner.

They enumerate the following instances which have occurred since the beginning of last year:—

That of the seizure and deportation by the Venezuelan gun-boat "Augusto" of British subjects; that of the seizure of the boat and property of John Craig, on the Island of Patos; the case of the "Buena Fé," which involved a similar interference and violation of Treaty; that of the "Maria Teresa," that of the "Pastor," that of the "Indiana," and that of the "In Time." Satisfactory explanations have not been forthcoming in any of these cases.

The confiscation of the British ship "Queen" appears to His Majesty's Government to be a still more flagrant case.

It is not possible, His Majesty's Government consider, to tolerate a continuance of conduct which, in this last incident, reached a climax, and they have consequently instructed me to record a formal protest with reference thereto, and to convey to his Excellency the President, and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in terms about which there can be no mistake, that, unless explicit assurances are received by His Majesty's Government that such incidents shall not occur again, and that unless full compensation be paid promptly to the injured parties wherever it be shown to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government that such compensation be justly due, they will take such steps as they may consider to be necessary to exact the reparation which they have the right to demand in these cases, as well as on account of the claims of the British Railway Companies in Venezuela, as also for any loss caused by the conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad, for which there is no possible justification.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 8.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 28.)

(Extract.) *Carácas, August* 4, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy and translation of the note which I have received from the Venezuelan Government in reply to that of which I had the honour to inclose a copy in my despatch of the 1st instant, embodying the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship to record a formal protest with regard to the past intolerable conduct of the Venezuelan Government in interfering with the liberty and property of British subjects, and to intimate in unmistakable terms that, unless explicit assurances were received that such incidents should not occur again, and unless full compensation were paid promptly to the injured parties wherever it were shown to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government that such compensation was justly due, they would take such steps as might be necessary to exact the reparation which they have the right to demand in these cases as well as on account of the claims against the Venezuelan Government of the British Railway Companies, as also for any loss caused by the unjustifiable conduct of the Venezuelan Consul at Trinidad.

The Venezuelan Government, in their note, state that they considered that some of the claims—such as the capture of John Craig's boat and the proceedings against the "Maria Teresa"—were altogether done with. They state that another of these—that with reference to the Island of Patos—had been settled for some time by the Venezuelan Government without His Majesty's Government having offered any legal refutation of their decision, *i.e.*, as to the possession of the island, and that the rest of those enumerated

by your Lordship were already settled or in the course of settlement, *i.e.*, decided *ex parte* by the Venezuelan Government, although the replies to the representations of His Majesty's Legation with reference to them had been postponed owing to circumstances which it was not necessary to dwell on, *i.e.*, their refusal to entertain any others save those connected with the "Ban Righ."

Dr. Baralt, in the next paragraph, states that he does not consequently judge the moment opportune to answer this last representation any more than the previous ones, and then defines absolutely the reason for this—that the Venezuelan Government had decided to postpone the reply to all such representations from the time of the perpetration of the injuries caused by the "Ban Righ," and since that of the open partiality of the Trinidad authorities in matters prejudicial to the peace of Venezuela.

The next paragraph is practically a repetition in different words of the last, and refers me to previous Venezuelan notes, in which they made and repeated their statement limiting the relations between His Majesty's Legation and the Venezuelan Government.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs then goes on to reiterate the statement in brief and definite terms that, until this matter is settled satisfactorily to the interests of both nations, the Venezuelan Government cannot entertain any other on a different subject.

His Excellency then states that the conduct of the Acting Consul at Trinidad is a matter to be considered in relation with the partiality of the Colonial authorities. The Venezuelan Government would thus seem to practically indorse and accept the responsibility for his misconduct in words which seem to strengthen the belief that this was actually instigated by them.

Your Lordship will see that no allusion whatever is made to the statement at the close of my note as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government to exact reparation from the Venezuelan Government unless it was spontaneously made by them.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Señor Baralt to Mr. Haggard.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre, *Carácas, August* 2, 1902.

YOUR Excellency's note of the 30th July, which I received on the 1st instant, contains a résumé of complaints and claims on different subjects, some of which, such as the capture of John Craig's boat and the proceedings against the sloop "Maria Teresa," the Government of the Republic had considered as altogether disposed of. Another of these, relating to the Islet of Patos, has been settled for some time by the Government of Venezuela without the slightest opposition being made by Great Britain on legal grounds, and the rest were already settled, or on the road to a settlement, even although an answer relating to them had been postponed owing to circumstances which need not again be dwelt on, as they are well known to His Majesty's Legation. The Chief of the Executive Power is consequently surprised both at your Excellency's putting forward these facts, and at the general tone of your note; and, in spite of all the questions which it raises, he does not consider it advisable to answer it immediately, owing to the fact that the Venezuelan Government decided to postpone dealing with matters of that and of an analogous character, from the time when the "Ban Righ" committed her injurious acts and the Trinidad authorities showed such open partiality, in a sense hostile to the peace of Venezuela.

The surprise of the Chief of the Government is the more justifiable inasmuch as your note raises a variety of questions, some of which have already been disposed of. And the British Legation could surely not have considered the present a favourable opportunity for discussing even those questions which are still pending with this Government, seeing that no settlement has yet been arrived at relative to the complaints and remonstrances laid before Great Britain in consequence of the action of the "Ban Righ," and of the attitude of the British authorities in connection with that vessel. Your Excellency is aware that the right which supports Venezuela on this point is upheld by proofs preserved in the archives of this Ministry, and you also know by the Venezuelan notes of the 28th February, of the 8th and 13th March, and of the 5th April last, that from that time the Venezuelan Government decided to postpone dealing with any other matters pending with the British Legation until the settlement of the "Ban Righ" question, which is so ardently desired by the Venezuelan Government with a view to preserving their friendly relations with that of His Majesty.

This is, therefore, the occasion to state anew to your Excellency that, so long as a matter of such importance is not settled satisfactorily to the interests of both nations, this Ministry cannot entertain others which are entirely foreign to that object.

The conduct which in your note you attribute to the Consul in Trinidad is a matter which may be considered in relation with the partiality of the Colonial authorities.

(Signed) R. LOPEZ BARALT.

No. 9.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 10.)

Sir, *Admiralty, October 10, 1902.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith, to be laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a letter, dated the 27th ultimo, from the Commander-in-chief on the North America and West Indies Station, relative to the measures in his opinion necessary to carry out the proposed naval demonstration off the coast of Venezuela.

2. My Lords desire me to state that they anticipate no difficulty in giving effect to Sir Archibald Douglas' proposals, should they meet with Lord Lansdowne's concurrence.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. I. THOMAS, *pro Sec.*

Inclosure in No. 9.

Vice-Admiral Douglas to Admiralty.

(Extract.) *"Ariadne," at Halifax, September 27, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Admiralty letter dated the 4th September last, directing me to be in readiness to carry out a naval demonstration off the coast of Venezuela in conjunction with ships of the Imperial German Navy.

With reference to the second paragraph of the letter above quoted, be pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I think it will be necessary, in order to bring effective measures to bear on the Venezuelan Government, to blockade the ports of La Guayra, Porto Cabello, and Maracaibo, and other ports on the Venezuelan coast where railways terminate.

The most convenient time to commence operations will be towards the end of November, when the Newfoundland fishery season will have concluded, and the vessels at present employed on that division will be available.

I propose, subject to the approval of their Lordships, to place Commodore Montgomerie, of the "Charybdis," in charge, with the following vessels under his orders:—

"Tribune,"
"Retribution,"
"Indefatigable."
Torpedo-boat destroyers—
"Quail" and
"Rocket;" and
"Columbine" (special service vessel).

The "Alert" and "Fantome" will also be available if required.

Having discussed the situation with Captain C. H. Robertson, C.M.G., of the "Pallas," who has recently been employed as Senior Naval Officer of the Barbados Division, and spent some considerable time in Venezuelan waters, and who is well acquainted with the state of affairs in that country, I would submit, as an alternative scheme to the blockade, that all the Venezuelan gun-boats should be seized until our demands are complied with.

No. 10.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, October* 22, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief on the North American and West Indies Station relative to the measures which are, in his opinion, necessary to carry out the proposed naval demonstration off the coast of Venezuela.

The alternative courses suggested by Sir A. Douglas have been carefully considered, and as the establishment of a blockade appears open to some objection, his Lordship is disposed to think that it will be found most convenient, in the event of the Venezuelan Government remaining obdurate, to adopt the suggestion of seizing all the Venezuelan gun-boats until the British demands are complied with.

No. 11.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 29.)

(Extract.) *Admiralty, October* 28, 1902.

WITH reference to your letter of the 22nd instant relative to the measures which, in the opinion of the Commander-in-chief on the North American and West Indies Station, are necessary to carry out the proposed naval demonstration off the coast of Venezuela, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Marquess of Lansdowne that they do not anticipate any serious difficulty in giving effect to Sir A. Douglas' alternative proposal, viz., to seize all the Venezuelan gun-boats until the British demands have been satisfied.

No. 12.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1902.

MAKE a communication in the following terms to the Venezuelan Government in the form of a note:—

"His Majesty's Government regret the unsatisfactory character of the reply to the representations contained in your note of the 30th July. They are unable to admit that the serious causes of complaint put forward can be met by a refusal to discuss them.

"If such a refusal is persisted in, it will become the duty of His Majesty's Government to consider what steps they should take for the protection of British interests.

"They are, however, unwilling to exclude at once all possibility of proceeding with negotiations, and they are, therefore, ready to consider any further communication which the Government of the Republic may be prepared to make."

No. 13.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1902.

THE German Ambassador informed me this evening that the German Government were prepared to join with us in addressing a final warning to the Venezuelan Government, and I communicated to him the substance of my telegram to Mr. Haggard of this day's date. I had thought it better not to delay making this intimation, which was as he would observe couched in general terms, but I undertook

to telegraph at once to Mr. Haggard, desiring him to put himself in communication with his German colleague.

With regard to measures of coercion, the German Government were prepared to accede to our suggestion that the first step should be the seizure of the Venezuelan gun-boats, and they proposed that we should instruct our naval authorities in those waters to concert a plan for carrying out this project.

As to the joint execution of measures of coercion, the German Government recognized that there was a sharp distinction between the character of the British and German "first-line" claims; nevertheless, the two claims ought to stand or fall together, and we ought to exclude the possibility of a settlement between Venezuela and one of the two Powers without an equally satisfactory settlement in the case of the other. Each Government ought, therefore, to come to an understanding before it embarked upon a project of coercion that neither Government should be at liberty to recede except by mutual agreement; and before common action was initiated, we ought to come to a distinct agreement to this effect.

I told Count Metternich that it seemed to me only reasonable that if we agreed to act together in applying coercion, we should also agree that each should support the other's demands, and should not desist from doing so except by agreement.

No. 14.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1902.

THE German Ambassador being absent from London in attendance upon His Majesty the German Emperor, Count Bernstorff called here to-day at my request, and was informed that His Majesty's Government quite concur in the view that if joint action against Venezuela is undertaken, it should be maintained until the demands of both Governments, as finally agreed upon, are satisfied.

In the first place, however, it was necessary to arrive at an understanding with regard to the form in which the British and German claims should be put forward, and also with regard to the manner in which the demands made upon Venezuela should be enforced.

The British claims, as Count Metternich presumed, were capable of classification. Those on account of the recent cases of unjustifiable interference with the liberty and property of British subjects, including the shipping claims, would rank first. Claims for injury to British property during the late revolution, and that which placed President Castro in power, would come next, and in the third place the claims of the bondholders.

His Majesty's Government did not, however, desire, in their demands upon Venezuela, to draw a distinction between the various categories. Their object was to obtain a general settlement, and they were of opinion that to advance one class of claims, or at this stage to specify any particular amount, would diminish the chance of securing in all cases the reparation which they considered to be justly due.

If, therefore, the answer of the Venezuelan Government to the communication recently addressed to them should prove unsatisfactory, or if, after a reasonable interval, it should appear that no answer at all would be returned, His Majesty's Government would propose to proceed to measures of coercion and to seize the gun-boats.

If the seizure of the gun-boats should not produce the desired effect, it would, of course, be necessary to decide what should be the next step. This point would be carefully considered.

On receiving the submission of the Venezuelan Government, and on learning that they were prepared to admit their liability on every count, His Majesty's Government would for their part exact immediate payment of the pressing claims in the first category, according to estimates approved by His Majesty's Legation at Carácas, or by the British Colonial authorities. They would then consent to the heavier claims being referred to a small Mixed Commission in case the Venezuelan Government should have any considerations to urge in mitigation of the damages claimed. An arrangement of this nature would be equitable as regards the Venezuelan Government, and would, moreover, prevent pressure being exercised in cases such as might possibly occur, where the Venezuelan member of the Commission could prove a claim to be unfounded or excessive.

Count Bernstorff promised to report these suggestions to his Government at once.

No. 15.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Carácas, November 17, 1902.*

IN reply to my note sent in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, the Venezuelan Government express their regret that it might be inferred that the Venezuelan complaints with regard to the "Ban Righ" and to the attitude taken up by the authorities of the Colony of Trinidad had not been examined by His Majesty's Government, as if this had been the case those complaints would not have been attributed to caprice on the part of Venezuela.

Attention is called to the "eagerness of His Majesty's Government or of His Majesty's Legation to discuss matters of comparatively secondary importance," when contrasted with the paramount interest felt by Venezuela in obtaining due recognition and respect for her claims, which arise from the grave injuries caused by the "Ban Righ" and the facilities afforded to the revolutionaries by the Colonial authorities in Trinidad.

They add that Venezuela has done nothing contrary to courtesy or international law, and that she cannot, therefore, justly be held responsible for the present situation.

The Venezuelan Government would be much gratified if His Majesty's Government would express some desire to come to an understanding by which the injuries caused by the "Ban Righ" and by the authorities of Trinidad would be remedied, and they maintain that their claims in connection with those two subjects have hitherto been met by "the most unfair refusal of His Majesty's Government to consider the matter."

The note continues with a statement that the Venezuelan Government have gravely considered the serious nature of the injuries which have resulted from the treatment of the "Ban Righ" and the action of the Trinidad authorities, and that they ask nothing from Great Britain which is not a legitimate consequence of the situation thereby created. They therefore appeal to the sense of fairness of His Majesty's Government to effect a settlement of the present abnormal and regrettable situation by placing matters on a basis of mutual agreement.

No. 16.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 19.)

My Lord, *Carácas, October 29, 1902.*

THE Acting Governor of Trinidad forwarded me, by last mail, a sworn Declaration made by the captain of the British sloop 'Racer," relating to circumstances which occurred to his boat on her voyage from Port of Spain to Mayaro, on the east coast of Trinidad, its boarding off the Venezuelan coast by armed men, and the robbery by these of all his belongings and those of his crew, and its subsequent seizure by the Venezuelan authorities at Carupano.

Sir Courtenay Knollys informed me that he had transmitted this statement to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, so I will not trouble your Lordship with a copy of it.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which, on its receipt, I addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Mr. Haggard to Señor Baralt.

M. le Ministre, *Carácas, October 23, 1902.*

I HAVE the honour to bring before your Excellency the following circumstances related in a solemn Declaration made by a British subject named James David on the

2nd of this month at Port of Spain before the Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for the district, which has been forwarded to me by his Excellency the Acting Governor of Trinidad.

James David declares that he was the master of the British sloop "Racer" trading with Trinidad. On Monday, the 22nd September, he left Port of Spain with his vessel bound for Mayaro, and, when a couple of miles off the Grand Bocas, a squall struck the ship and dismasted it, his brother, who was a sailor on board, being killed by the falling mast. The boat then drifted towards the Venezuelan coast. As it got near to the coast, boats from on shore boarded it with armed men and robbed him and his sailors of all they possessed, including 37*l.* which he had in his trunk, and, when they got to Carupano, the harbour-master went alongside and asked him what he wanted there. David told him that the sloop was dismasted and had drifted to his port. The harbour-master then left the sloop and went on board a Venezuelan gun-boat which was then in the harbour; sometime after, he returned, telling David that he must not land, and he then went on shore. An hour afterwards he came off again and told David in English: "come ashore with all your men." The master of the "Racer" did so and was brought with his men to the custom-house and questioned as to how and why he came to Carupano. Eventually men from the Customs were sent from on shore and they seized the sloop.

This narrative would have appeared incredible had it not unfortunately happened that the circumstances which it relates of violence towards British subjects and property are of a nature with which His Majesty's Legation has been only too familiar of late; but the facts connected with this incident would seem, if not disproved, to be, if possible, even more grave than those of the cases which formed the subject of the note which, by instruction of His Majesty's Government, I addressed to your Excellency on the 30th July.

This British ship drifts into a Venezuelan harbour in a disabled condition. It is usual, on such unfortunate occasions, for the local authorities of a port to give what kindly and hospitable assistance they can to a disabled foreign vessel, but the treatment which is reported as having been accorded at Carupano to the "Racer" is worse than that formerly given by "wreckers" in savage districts to any disabled ship unhappily driven on their shores, for they only used to plunder the crew and ship, whereas at Carupano, according to Captain David, not only has that been done but the authorities have seized the ship itself.

I can only sincerely hope that your Excellency will be in a position to disprove this Declaration. In the meanwhile Sir Courtenay Knollys informs me that he is seeking further evidence on the question which will, in due course, be communicated to me, and that he has forwarded a copy of Mr. David's statement to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

When this further evidence arrives, I shall have the honour of communicating it to your Excellency.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 17.

Memorandum communicated to Count Metternich, November 26, 1902.

THE Senior Naval Officers should be instructed to confer together and to settle their plan of operations for seizing the gun-boats. They should also be instructed to have a ship or ships in readiness at La Guayra to take on board, if necessary, the British and German Representatives.

2. Mr. Haggard and Baron Pilgrim should be instructed to present the ultimatum. It should be left to their discretion to decide when they should leave Carácas, and whether they should remain at La Guayra or go on board man-of-war there It might, however, without tying them down to any particular course, be suggested that they should wait twenty-four hours in Carácas after the presentation of the ultimatum. They should announce their departure by notes to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and state that British and German interests were left in charge of . . . . .

They might then wait another twenty-four hours at La Guayra or on board the vessel.

3. If at the expiration of the forty-eight hours no satisfactory answer should have been received, the Representatives should so inform the Senior Naval Officers.

The latter should be instructed, on receiving this intimation from the Representatives, to proceed at once to the seizure of the gun-boats.

Foreign Office, November 26, 1902.

No. 18.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 27, 1902.

WE shall proceed, in conjunction with the German Government, as follows, subject to alterations in matters of detail:—

Instructions will shortly be sent you to present to the Venezuelan Government a further communication in the form of an ultimatum. If, within a limited period, which will be indicated, you have not received from them a satisfactory reply, you will quit Carácas, and either proceed to La Guayra or go on board one of His Majesty's ships which will be at that port.

Should no answer be received after another short interval, you will inform the Senior Naval Officer of the fact, and he will have received orders to proceed at once to the seizure of Venezuelan gun-boats upon hearing from you.

No. 19.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 27.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November* 27, 1902.

WITH reference to previous correspondence I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated 27th November, from the Naval Commander-in-chief on the North American Station, relative to the situation in Venezuela, together with a copy of Admiralty reply.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Commander-in-chief, North American Station, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Bermuda, November* 27, 1902.

"CHARYBDIS" will be ready to leave Bermuda 2nd December. I have placed "Indefatigable," "Fantome," and "Alert" under orders of Commodore Montgomerie.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Admiralty to Commander-in-chief, North American Station.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, November* 27, 1902.

YOURS of to-day's date.

Proposals generally approved.

No. 20.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1902.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, inclosing copy of a telegram from the Commander-in-chief North American Station, relative to the operations which it is proposed to undertake in Venezuelan waters, together with a copy of the Admiralty reply.

Lord Lansdowne understands that, as His Majesty's ship "Charybdis" will not be ready to start from Bermuda until the 2nd December, she cannot arrive at Trinidad until the 6th December. As she is commanded by Commodore Montgomerie, to whom the Admiral has intrusted the conduct of operations, no action can be taken until after her arrival.

I am however to suggest, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a telegram should be addressed to the Admiral, inquiring where His Majesty's ships "Indefatigable," "Alert," and "Fantôme" are at present, and instructing him that these three ships should be ready at Trinidad by the time the "Charybdis" arrives.

I am further to state that, in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, the Admiral may now be instructed by telegraph to confer with the German Senior Naval Officer as to the plan of operations to be adopted for the seizure of the Venezuelan gun-boats.

It would also be necessary that he should arrange for one of His Majesty's ships to be in readiness to proceed, at once if necessary, to La Guayra to take on board His Majesty's Minister. Should their Lordships see no objection, the Commanding Officer of the vessel detached for this duty might offer hospitality to the German Chargé d'Affaires.

Lord Lansdowne considers that it may be useful for the Admiral to know the course of procedure which, subject to alteration in matters of detail, His Majesty's Government, in conjunction with the German Government, propose to take in Venezuela. I am therefore to inform you that His Majesty's Minister at Carácas will shortly be instructed to present a final communication to the Venezuelan Government in the form of an ultimatum. If a satisfactory answer is not received within a limited period, the duration of which will be subsequently indicated, Mr. Haggard will leave Carácas and will have discretion to remain at La Guayra or to proceed on board one of His Majesty's ships. If, after another short interval, no reply is forthcoming, Mr. Haggard will notify this to the Senior British Naval Officer, who will then, if the Lords Commissioners shall have given him the requisite orders, proceed at once to the seizure of the gun-boats.

Should His Majesty's Legation be withdrawn from Carácas, it is probable that British interests in Venezuela will be placed in charge of the United States' Minister.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 21.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Buchanan.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1902.

I COMMUNICATED to the German Ambassador this afternoon a copy of the instructions which will be sent to-morrow to His Majesty's Minister at Carácas with regard to the presentation of an ultimatum to the Venezuelan Government, and the action which will subsequently be taken if no satisfactory reply is received. I told Count Metternich that Mr. Haggard had already been informed generally of the course which it was intended to adopt, but that I had postponed giving him precise instructions until His Majesty's Government and the German Government had settled every point of detail. Now that a complete agreement has been arrived at, there was no reason for further delay. The Commander-in-chief on the North American Station had been directed to confer with the German Senior Naval Officer, and to concert a plan of operations for the seizure of the Venezuelan gun-boats. The British squadron would be assembled at Port of Spain on the 6th instant, and one of His Majesty's ships would arrive on that day at La Guayra, and remain there in readiness to take off His Majesty's Minister.

Digitized with financial assistance from
Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj
on 31 October, 2019

Of course, if desired, accommodation would also be offered to the German Chargé d'Affaires.

With regard to the question of the ulterior measures to be taken if the seizure of the gun-boats should fail in effect, I hoped to be very shortly in a position to explain the views of His Majesty's Government.

No. 22.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 2, 1902.*

YOUR telegram of 17th ultimo.

In answer to the Venezuelan note, you should address a written communication to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, pointing out that, with regard to the "Ban Righ," His Majesty's Government have given full explanations, and have shown that on this account there is no legitimate ground of complaint. Nor do they consider that there is any justification for attributing blame to the authorities at Trinidad, who only acted in accordance with instructions.

You should then state that His Majesty's Government also regret the situation which has arisen, but that they cannot accept the note as in any degree a sufficient answer to your communications, or as indicating an intention on the part of the Venezuelan Government to meet the claims which His Majesty's Government have put forward, and which must be understood to include all well-founded claims which have arisen in consequence of the late civil war and previous civil wars, and of the maltreatment or false imprisonment of British subjects, and also a settlement of the external debt.

You will request the Venezuelan Government to make a declaration that they recognize in principle the justice of these claims, that they will at once pay compensation in the shipping cases, and in the cases where British subjects have been falsely imprisoned or maltreated, and that as to other claims they will be prepared to accept the decisions of a Mixed Commission with regard to the amount and the security for payment to be given.

You should express a hope that the Venezuelan Government will comply with these demands, and not compel His Majesty's Government to take steps to obtain satisfaction. You should add that His Majesty's Government have been informed of the claims of the German Government against Venezuela, that the two Governments have agreed to act together in order to obtain a settlement of all their claims, and that His Majesty's Government will require the immediate payment of a sum equal to that which may in the first instance be paid to the German Government. Any balance after the discharge of pressing claims will be held on account for the liquidation of the claims which will go before the Commission.

You should make it quite clear that this communication must be regarded in the light of an ultimatum.

You will confer with your German colleague and act in close conjunction with him. Subject to any modifications which, after conferring with him, you may consider necessary, you should proceed as follows: The presentation of notes must be simultaneous and should take place on the 7th instant. If no satisfactory answer is received in the course of twenty-four hours, you and your colleague should leave Carácas for La Guaira. On leaving you should send a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs announcing your departure, and stating that British interests have been placed in charge of the United States' Minister. You should await answer at La Guaira for another twenty-four hours, and if none arrives you should intimate this to the Senior Naval Officer at Port of Spain, who will have received instructions on hearing from you to proceed to active measures. One of His Majesty's ships will be at La Guaira on the 6th instant, and it is left to your discretion whether you go on board at once on arrival there or wait until after the second interval of twenty-four hours has elapsed. If convenient, accommodation on board His Majesty's ship can, of course, be offered to the German Chargé d'Affaires.